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Sustainable development: United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 27th and 29th meetings, on 4 and 18 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.27 and 29).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.13 and A/C.2/65/L.41

2. At the 27th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/65/L.13), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 59/237 of 22 December 2004 and all other previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,
>
> "*Acknowledging* the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and the Education for All initiative,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.

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"*Taking into account* that education has become more specialized, and recognizing the importance of promoting a holistic approach towards education for sustainable development and the need to reinforce the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, including different branches of knowledge,

"*Recognizing* the role of education for sustainable development in promoting the eradication of poverty and a more sustainable model of consumption and production, particularly in the context of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the mid-decade review of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

"2. *Also takes note* of the Bonn Declaration adopted at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development on 2 April 2009, including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

"3. *Recognizes* that while progress has been made in raising awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, such progress remains unevenly distributed;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to reinforce its collective commitment to raise awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, including through mobilizing resources, supporting national efforts and establishing processes that will continue beyond the end of the Decade;

"5. *Encourages* Governments to continue implementing the Decade at the international, national and local levels, including through working with academia, institutions and foundations, for example through introducing the concept of sustainable development into training curricula, while working towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and as a way to guide the efforts of human beings to rebalance their relationship with the Earth;

"6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to continue its coordination role in promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a review of the implementation of the Decade for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled 'United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'."

3. At its 29th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/65/L.41), submitted by the Vice-Chair, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.13.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair (Hungary) orally corrected the draft resolution (A/C.2/65/SR.29).

6. Also at its 29th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/237 of 22 December 2004 and all relevant previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21,[1] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Education for All initiative,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a holistic approach towards education for sustainable development and the need to reinforce the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, including different branches of knowledge,

Recognizing also the role of education for sustainable development in promoting the eradication of poverty and more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the context of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the mid-decade review of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,[3] including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

2. *Also takes note* of the Bonn Declaration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held from 31 March to 2 April 2009,[4] including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* that while progress has been made in raising awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, such progress remains unevenly distributed;

4. *Encourages* the international community to reinforce its collective commitment to raise awareness of the significance of education for sustainable

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See A/65/279.

[4] Available from www.esd-world-conference-2009.org.

development, including through mobilizing resources, supporting national efforts, and establishing processes that will continue beyond the end of the Decade;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue implementing the Decade at the international, national and local levels, including through working with all relevant stakeholders, particularly education systems at all levels, introducing, as appropriate, the concept of sustainable development into curricula, and cooperating in order to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem;

6. *Invites* Governments to continue to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the Decade, inter alia, through cooperation with and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to continue its coordination role in promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations, funds and programmes;

8. *Notes* that the End-of-Decade World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development will be hosted jointly by the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2014;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations, funds and programmes a review of the implementation of the Decade for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".